# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# PANCHAYATI RAJ
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2047
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2013
AUTONOMY OF PANCHAYATS
Saroj Shri Tufani

**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

(a) whether certain powers have been delegated by the States/UTs to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as envisaged under Panchayati Raj system;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor including the States /UTs which have not delegated the powers and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide judicial and financial powers to Panchayats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) & (b): As per Article 243G of the Constitution, States are to endow Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and to plan and implement schemes for economic development and social justice, including those in relation to matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. Within the Constitutional framework, 'local government' is a State subject and States Legislatures pass legislations suitable in their context. The present status of devolution of Functions, Funds and Functionaries (3Fs) to the Panchayats by various States/UTs is given in Annex. Keeping in mind the Constitutional provisions in Part IX and the fact that 'Panchayats' is a State subject, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has a scheme namely, Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS) for incentivizing States/UTs to devolve the 3Fs. The Ministry has also taken up this issue through advisories and meetings.

(c) & (d): Panchayats being 'local government' is a State subject is included in the State List and in terms of Article 246 (3) of the Constitution, legislature of any State may provide powers to Panchayats. Article 243H of the Constitution empowers the State legislatures to: authorize Panchayats to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees in accordance with specified procedures and subject to specified limits; assign taxes, and subject to specified conditions and limits provide for grants-in-aid to Panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the State; and provide for constitution of specific funds for crediting monies received by or on behalf of Panchayats and withdrawal of monies therefrom.